

LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Jubilee Pavilion, Keedwell Hill, Long Ashton on Thursday 19th August 2021 at 7.30pm



Present: Councillors L Anderson, C Fagg (Chairman), S Hardingham, C James, J Purkiss, R McAllister-Kemp, C Tarsey and A Wilkinson.

In attendance: Jo Swift (Locum Clerk) and 6 members of the public.

C21.104 Apologies for absence LGA 1972 s85 (1).

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Cartman, Cave, Harris and Jackson.

Apologies were also given by the North Somerset District Councillor S McQuillan

C21.105 Declarations of Interests and Grant of Dispensations

Councillor C Tarsey had an interest in all items relating to LACA, as an employee, he did not vote or participate in the meeting in respect of these items.

C21.106 Confirmation of Minutes

It was mentioned that the planning meeting held on 14th June may not have been quorate.

Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st June 2021 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

C21.107 Recruitment

An update was given – the chosen candidate decided not to accept the job so the Council will be advertising the role again, in September, for the role of Clerk and RFO with an option for reduced hours.

Agenda item 6 was taken before agenda item 5.

C21.109 LACA

Detailed questions and answers were previously circulated, they are available for those interested. A lengthy discussion took place and further questions were asked and concerns were raised.

How will it work – the day to day running of LACA will remain the same, all staff remain employees of LACA, and all assets stay with LACA until LACA is transferred to a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). Obtaining CIO status is not a problem and can be done quickly, it will be the transferring of assets and the TUPE of staff which will take longer and will be a lot of work. The Parish Council will drive the process of transferring to a CIO.

Legal advice has been received in respect of the trustees' recent resignations. Three trustees must remain so three of the resignations were invalid and those three had the power to co-opt the other two.

All the options were discussed but it was felt that the negatives outweighed the positives for the other options so the proposal to delegate the management of LACA and transition to a CIO is the best option for all parties concerned. LACA becoming a CIO is also a more attractive option for those considering becoming a trustee as a CIO has limited liability.

The different models are:

Foundation – trustees are appointed

Associated – the members vote for the trustees

Type of model – it will be a foundation model based on advice received. It is easier for a foundation model to change to an associated model later if necessary than the other way around, in respect of the Charity Commission.

It was questioned why the sub-committee meetings will not be held in public and it was felt that even with a monthly report being made available to Council it should still be open to members of the public. The reply was that it would not be operationally practical, or beneficial in terms of confidential matters such as dealing with staffing matters, contracts. However, such matters such as the new vision should involve members of the public, and the sub-committee would report each month to F&GP/the Parish Council. Trustee meeting of Charities are not normally held with members of the public present so this will follow the same reasoning.

Resolved – that the Terms of Reference were approved with the proviso above that members of the public will be involved in certain circumstances.

Resolved – that the delegation is accepted under the conditions as set out in the Terms of Reference.

Resolved – that Councillors C Fagg, S Hardingham, C James, R McAllister, A Wilkinson are appointed to a sub-committee of the Finance and General Purposes committee called the LACA sub-committee.

C21.108 LACA Grant

Resolved – that £6,000 is to be drawn down for a professional consultation which will come out of the contingency fund that has been set aside for LACA.

The meeting ended at 20.55pm

Signed: Date:(Chairman)